TAMESIDE EYE

NEW! TAMESIDES FIRST ALTERNATIVE PAPER!

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OCT/NOV '78

WHAT IS Tameside Eye?

TAMESIDE EYE is something new: an independent, non profit making magazine that aims to be bright, entertaining and hard hitting.

News and features in TAMESIDE EYE will go behind public statements on controversial local issues to find the facts and let you know what is really going on.

Then there's the WHAT'S ON guide to entertainment for the coming month and the COMMUNITY PAGE for people who want to get involved.

If you want to know more about TAMESIDE EYE pop into the GREYHOUND on BURLINGTON ST. AUL around 9.30 p.m. on a Wednesday for a pint and a chat, or ring GLOSSOP 61702 after 5 p.m.

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Subscriptions

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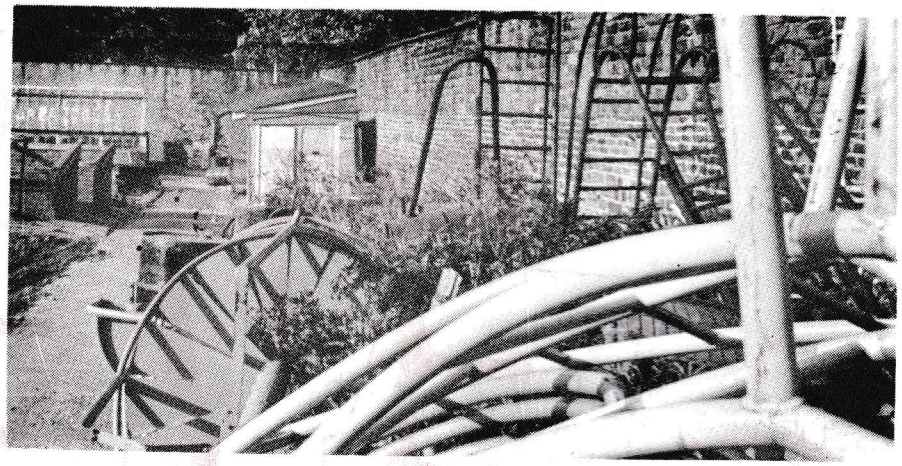


Bought over 9 months ago by Tameside Wreckreation, this kids play equipment stands rusting away in Cheetham Park behind nurseries wall.

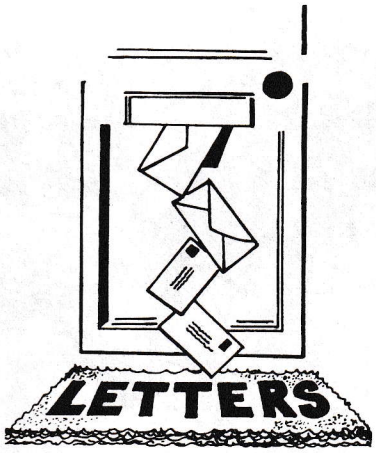
PLAYIN' STUPID

What does Tameside think it's playing at? Soon, there will be no properly supervised kids play schemes in the Borough.

- North West Play Council's schemes have run out of job creation cash.
- The Recreation Dept's Senior Community Play Organiser finishes her six month stint on Nov. 11th. This summer, Recreation sponsored only 12 schemes on less than £420 each (total budget £5,000). And on Hattersley, for example, this year there was only one playscheme - compared with four schemes five years ago under Cheshire.

The state of play here in Tameside is a disgrace!

However, never let it be said that Tameside doesn't treat some of its kids some of the time. The tories favourite sons (the Mayor and Deputy) are to get new toys costing more than £11,000! It was agreed at Finance Committee that this cash be spent on gold medallions for the mayoral chains.



Dear Tameside Eye,

Further to our telephone conversation regarding the article on the N.F. leaflets on page 6 of Eye 1.

I may respectfully point out that certain things in the article are untrue.

The Tameside District Labour party did not have any anti N.F. leaflets printed for distribution in N.F. contested wards and therefore Cllr. Travis was not asked by the District Party to circulate anti N.F. leaflets, and the District Party are not aware of any such statements on refusal as quoted in your paper.

Please could you print a retraction in your next issue.

Yours sincerely,
S.E. Worthington, Sec.
Tameside District Labour Party.
Stalybridge, Ches.

EYE REPLY

Correction: It was the ASHTON Labour Party who printed the leaflets, but according to our sources, Cllr. Travis was asked to allow the leaflets to be distributed and he did refuse because he considered it 'might effect his vote'. Incidentally, why didn't the Tameside L.P. print any anti - N.F. leaflets ?

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ESTIMATES GIVEN

NEWS

GHOSTS OF HARTLES HALL

A LOCAL MILLIONAIRE HAS BEEN GIVEN THOUSANDS OF POUNDS BY TAMESIDE COUNCIL TO CONVERT A DERELICT MANSION INTO A LUXURY HOME ..... AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN AN OLD CONTROV--ERSY HAS BEEN REVIVED.....

AN EYE INVESTIGATION

Ce he bought Mottram Hall from Tameside a year ago, machine-tool magnate Derek Hartle has received £7,500 from the county council, a £1,500 'improvement grant' from Tameside and a further £2,500 'discretionary grant' from the same source. Traditionally, discretionary grants have been reserved for the renovation of small properties whose owners could not afford to do the job themselves.

Derek Hartle is clearly not in that category: he is reported to be selling his present home, Heaps Farm, Stalybridge, for £75,000, as well as a score of prime building lots around it (for further details of Hartle's 'empire' see page 4).

Hartle's purchase of Mottram Hall itself was controversial. Tameside had spent £15,000 rainproofing the Hall and a further £7,500 on a report which had recommended its use as a much-needed home for 'maladjusted children' 40 of whom were, and still are, having to be farmed out from Tameside every year to homes as far afield as Dorset and Dundee, at a cost of over £100,000. By the Autumn of 1976 money and permission had been obtained from Central Government to convert the hall into a home, when a clampdown on capital spending caused the project to be temporarily shelved.

By April 1977 the Tories had been in power over a year when their leader Colin Grantham put a last minute item on the agenda of an Education Committee meeting. The item proposed the sale of Mottram Hall by public auction, No warning had been given, and no attempt had been made to offer use of the Hall to other council committees - the usual procedure in such cases, and the Labour opposition were taken by surprise.

STORM

A storm broke.
Cllr. Roy Oldham (Lab) claiming that 'something smells about this sudden turnround' made an official complaint to the Ombudsman.

Cllr. Jack Thornley claimed - in the Evening News - that he was " collecting a dossier" on the affair, for a public investigation into "whether there was any connection between a wealthy Conservative Party supporter's interest in the property and the sudden decision to put it on the market".
Cllr. Grantham vigorously denied all the innuendos claiming that he 'didn't know' any of the people interested in buying the property.

HARTLE

In an interview with Tameside Eye Cllr. Thornley identified the "wealthy Conservative Party supporter" as Derek Hartle, who had been president of the Hyde and Stalybridge Conservative Assoc. when Colin Grantham was Chairman (see documentation p.4)
Hartle's interest in Mottram Hall was well known and went back as far as 1973 when his offer to sell an office block behind Ashton town hall to the Tameside Steering Committee, in return for the first option on Mottram Hall, had been turned down.

AUCTION

The auction finally took place in Oct. 1977. It lasted five minutes. Hartle got the Hall for £35,000. Afterwards he announced his plans to take full advantage of a planning permission which, conveniently, had been applied for, and granted, by Tameside for residential development in the stables and coach house.

continued page 4

NEWS

Hartle's hall (cont.)

Gradually, the storm petered out. Cllr. Oldham's complaint to the Ombudsman was not upheld though he still claims the Hall was 'vastly undervalued' at the Auction (bidding started at £15,000).
Cllr. Thornley's 'dossier' never emerged.
But the affair is still not dead.

In Sept. Cllr. Meredith (Lab) made a reference, in full council, to 'the method used to obtain Mottram Hall' causing Cllr. Grantham to rise to his feet, demanding furiously what Meredith was implying. Meredith seemed unable, or unwilling, to explain.

The raising of adequate funds is one of our hardest tasks, and improvements in organisation and financing election campaigns require a lot of money. Will you now please help us finish off the job properly by sending a donation? Your financial support will greatly encourage us and provide the real means of achieving success.

With all best wishes,

Derek Hartle — President

Chairman

Hon. Treasurer

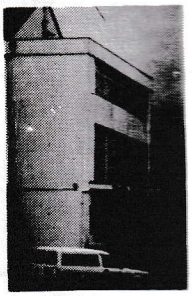
TORY Funding Leaflet

HARTLE EMPIRE

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUSINESS INTERESTS ANDLIFE-STYLE OF A WEALTHY MAN WHO HAS JUST BEEN GIVEN £4,000 OF RATEPAYERS MONEY
(see page 3 for full report)

Derek Hartle has come a long way since just after the war when, an apprentice joiner in Stalybridge, he set up on his own cleaning up dirty tools and selling them.
Since then he's been a Tory councillor, and a President of the Hyde and Stalybridge Conservation Assoc.
Now he's a Magistrate. He owns a chauffeur driven rolls royce, a five bedroomed farmhouse with a sauna and two kitchens, and, of course, Mottram Hall (see pg. 3).
The money for all this comes from wide-ranging business interests.
He owns Hartle Machinery International (reported assets £312,000). Hartle Machine tools and Hartle Steddal Ltd.

In addition he holds directorships on a score of other companies, seven of which are based in South Africa. Last year his salary alone was £38,000.



HARTLE HOUSE

Hartle is a physical fitness freak who consumes large amounts of bran and honey, when he isn't jogging around Mottram.
We do not, as yet, know what brand of toothpaste he uses.
Nor do we know why he bothered to apply for a pifling £1,500 Improvement Grant to do up his £35,000 mansion at Mottram Hall.

STERLINGATE COVER-UP?

A CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT CONCERNING POLLUTION HAS BEEN WITHELD FROM TAMESIDE COUNCILLORS BY A TAMESIDE COUNCIL EMPLOYEE.

In Tameside Eye 1 we quoted from a confidential report on a serious styrene leak at Sterling Mouldings Dukinfield factory. Tameside councillors on the Environmental Health committee have not yet seen this report, despite the fact that they are the ones who have to make decisions concerning pollution risks in Tameside (if a leak of poison to the river Tame does not concern Environmental Health, what does?) A copy of the report was given to the Chief Officer of Environmental Health, Mr. Holdsworth - but when Councillors Ford and Wilkinson asked to see it, he refused, saying it was 'confidential'.

Cllr. Wilkinson (Lab) cited a council rule which governs access to confidential documents (standing order no.24) and which states that 'for the purpose of his duty' a councillor may 'inspect any document' with a few important exceptions. Mr. Holdsworth still refused to give access to the report.

Cllr. Wilkinson then wrote to the Director of Administration, Mr. Leaming and officially asked to see the report, in accordance with standing order 24. Mr. Leaming replied by letter that Cllr. Wilkinson was in the right, and went on to say 'I have therefore advised Mr. Holdsworth that he should permit you to inspect the document.'
Thinking the battle was won, Cllr. Wilkinson 'phoned Mr. Holdsworth to make an appointment to see this closely guarded document. He was in for a shock. Holdsworth coolly informed him that he had returned the document to Sterling AFTER receiving Leaming's letter instructing him to make the document available to Cllr. Wilkinson!

Obviously Mr. Holdsworth felt the need to protect a firm, Sterling Mouldings, from his own employers, the elected representatives of the people. It may not be out of place to ask why.

NEWS

Why council estates are falling to bits

INSIDE BUILDING SERVICES

WORKERS AT THE CONTROVERSIAL BUILDING SERVICES DEPT. HAVE BEEN SPEAKING EXCLUSIVELY TO 'EYE' OF THE INCOMPETENCE BUREACRACY AND PENNY PINCHING THAT IS TURNING TAMESIDE'S COUNCIL ESTATES INTO SLUMS.

In Sept. 1975 at a cost of over £100,000, the building services management put their 'Mobile Workshops' into operation. Tameside was divided up into different areas, each covered by a travelling 'mobile' of vehicles and workmen who would do all the repairs in their area in a 12 week cycle. Billed as the 'workshop on your doorstep' the system has had problems right from the start.

the system

*The workshop vehicles aren't big enough to carry necessary materials so time and money is wasted to-ing and fro-ing between job and depot
*Inspection of properties prior to repair is often incompetent. As a result, workers arrive at jobs with the wrong tools and materials.

*The bonus system - worked out by Management Time and Motion encourages slipshod work.

Every job has a designated 'time' (e.g. a worker is allowed four minutes for easing a stiff window) and to earn more than the flat rate of around £52 workers have to pile up 'time' by doing jobs quicker than is designated.
Work is rushed and 'repairs' frequently have to be redone a few weeks later.

the cuts

Basic flaws in the system have been made worse by the public spending cuts, engineered by Tameside's top tories.

*The workforce has been run down by 'natural' wast age from 400 in 1975 to 320 today.
But, Management jobs have not disappeared at the same rate as shop floor jobs.
The dept. now has one 'manager' for every 2.5 workers! So, over one third of the Building Services workforce never go near a repair job!
*There should be 16 workers on each mobile by the depts. own reckoning. There are usually no more than 10 and one mobile in Hyde is, at present, working with a workforce of 5.

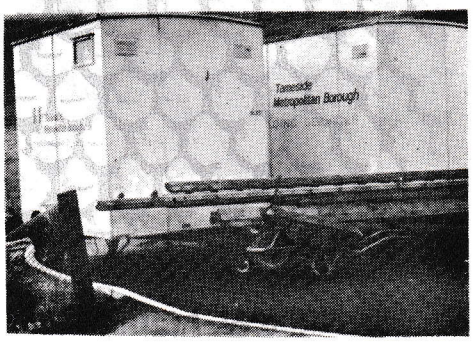
the results

*There is now a massive backlog of repairs on every council estate in Tameside. In Dukinfield alone there are over 1,000 outstanding repairs.
*Long term maintenance of council property is not being done. It is official policy to patch big jobs rather than repair them, thus ensuring that the problem will re-occur & add to the ever increasing backlog.
*The job-tickets are piling ever higher in the mobile offices and some workmen are relieving the pressure by simply tearing them up and throwing them away!

*There is a growing risk of accidents in badly maintained property. In the words of one worker "nearly all repairs are 'emergency' repairs now"

official reaction

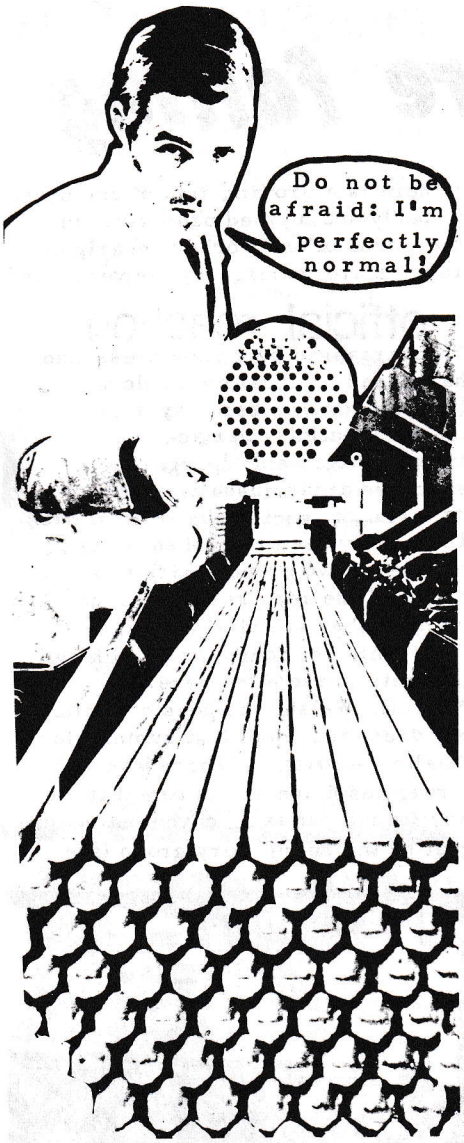
*Embarrassed by a poor press and harrassed by local councillors (themselves harrassed by angry tenants) Building Services have taken to organising 'purges' on specified areas. (usually areas with powerful or vociferous councillors') 12 week cycles are broken while a mobile or two spends extra time doing all the repairs in one area whether they are vital or not! Meanwhile, of course, the backlog just gets worse elsewhere!
*Norman Walsh, the boss of Building Services 'resigned' last summer for 'health reasons'. There was a strong suspicion at the time that he was forced out as a convenient scapegoat by the ruling Tory group (see Eye 1 - Was Walsh Sacked?)



*Private contractors are now being brought in by the Tory council to help with the backlog.

The bill for this is not footed by Building Services but by the relevant Dept. (e.g. Education or Housing). Union representatives at Building Services argue that if the money now being spent to pay private contractors had been spent on Building Services in the first place there would have been no backlog and so no need to call in private contractors!

EYEFUL" odds & sods "



Nuclear Fools

The Myth makers are at it again. This time in the basement of Hyde Library.
Last month, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. (BNFL) put on a free exhibition in Hyde library all about themselves. They are the sole supplier of fuel for nuclear power stations in Britain and other countries too.
Recently, at the Windscale Enquiry, BNFL got plenty of publicity about its proposals for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. Many individuals and organisations, including the Yorkshire Miners' Arthur Scargill, were strongly opposed to any more expansion of nuclear power. So, it's worth asking why BNFL feel the need to prove to us what a wonderful organisation they are? After all, as the exhibition showed, they earn money from overseas trade, the Queen opens their new factories - who could ask for more?

The fact is that BNFL desperately need myths to hide the truth.

* They say: ' Nuclear power is the cheapest' this is only true if development costs are borne by the government and other hidden subsidies are ignored.

* They say: 'We create jobs'. Yet, the nuclear power industry is the most expensive way of creating jobs. The same amounts invested in other industries would have created 3 or 4 times as many jobs.

* They say: 'The Electricity Board has saved £120 millions in a year thanks to nuclear power'. Only true if you choose, as BNFL do, to ignore the millions poured into the building of nuclear power stations by the Government.

* They say: 'Plutonium is a by-product of our industry.' If BNFL failed to produce plutonium, the Ministry of Defence would have difficulty making bombs and government subsidy would soon dry up!

* They say: ' Nuclear power is clean'. But recently at one of the nuclear research centres, Aldermaston, workers were found to have high doses of toxic plutonium dust in their lungs. Somehow, the body-scanner (able to check your whole body for radiation) proudly displayed by BNFL at this exhibition, was not available for Aldermaston laundry staff.

This exhibition is part of the nuclear mistake. We don't need nuclear energy - there are many cheaper and better alternatives, starved of research and experiments because BNFL takes the lions share.

This is a complicated part of our future. Here are 3 books worth reading to help understand the problem of what energy we need and who controls it:
1. Amory B. Lovins 'Soft Energy Paths' - Pelican 95p.
2. Walter C. Patterson - 'Nuclear Power' - Pelican 80p.
3. Peter Chapman -'Fuel's Paradise' Penguin Special 75p.

Pickin' them off

City of Manchester Housing has many overspill housing estates, which are now in other Boroughs. In the interests of efficiency and co-operation, liason committees between M/cr. and Trafford, Rochdale, High Peak have been set up (tenants pay rent to the City and rates to their local Borough - confusing huh?).

Tenants in Hattersley and Haughton Green will be pleased to learn that Tameside has refused to set up liason. Reason? We have no idea, but Cllr. Hall has provided a clue.

Referring to the City Council he said he was 'frightened of them picking us off one by one.'

Adult Education: learning the hard way

Scene recently at Enrolment night, Hattersley Comprehensive School. A tutor arrives with friends in tow and starts showing them the ropes, how to enrol for adult evening class and so on. He should know how, because he took last year's Car Maintenance Class. Then, up comes the man from Adult. Ed.
Man: "Didn't you get a letter from Warrington House?"
Tutor: "No"
Man: "Oh, we've someone from the college doing car maintenance this year. You aren't taking it any more."
Tutor: !!!
Exit one angry car maintaneer.
Watch out next year for a new Adult Education course in "Courtesy, Communications and efficiency."

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~IN COUNCIL~

A REGULAR REPORT ON THE SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF TAMESIDE COUNCIL FOLK, INCLUDING A REPORT ON THE LAST FULL COUNCIL MEETING WHICH TOUCHED ON SUCH BURNING ISSUES AS.....

Goo-gahs, Leaks and Riff-raff...

Cllrs. Ford and Bailey stood up at the last council meeting to complain about £10,000 of ratepayers' money being spent on those medals for ex mayors. John Bell - the Hyde Tory - was heard to call them left-wing riff-raff'.

So, dear reader, if you object to your money being spent on useless and very expensive googahs for ex-mayors, you know what Cllr. Bell thinks of you!

It's 'election

Secret goings on in a local Labour party.

We hear that two candidates for the Labour party selection panel in Ashton were recently turned down by the sitting members ; an unprecedented event'. You have to be on the selection panel to have a chance of being picked to stand for the ward. We understand that these days only left-wingers need apply in Ashton.

ADVERTISE IN THE TAMESIDE EYE

and there will be lots of eyes on you

YOU CAN BUY THIS SPACE FOR £7 or BUY IT 3 TIMES FOR ONLY £6 A TIME. ADVERTISING IN 'THE EYE' IS CHEAP. EACH COPY IS READ BY SEVERAL PEOPLE AND IS AROUND FOR OVER A MONTH.

At the last full council meeting press and public were excluded whilst councillors discussed why a Tameside officer had refused a councillor access to a confidential report which revealed safety pre cautions at a Sterling Moulding factory to have been inadequate. A bit bloody stupid really because members of the press and public who had read EYE ONE had already seen the relevant extract of the report, and those of you who want to know what exactly happened between the secretive officer and the curious councillor can turn to page 4 of this issue and read all about it!

minutes altered

And when the Tories tried to stop press and public from hearing how a Tameside officer and a Tory Chairman altered the minutes of a meeting without telling anyone, it was Playing-to-the-gallery time.

Labour leader George Newton was up appealing to the assembled throngs to note how the Tories were trying to suppress free speech by chucking them, the people of Tameside, out. Unfortunately, by that time the 'people of Tameside' seemed to be represented mainly by scribbling pressmen and a few very bored members of the Socialist Workers party. It sounded good though.

Fearn's turn

There's no doubt that Alan Fearn, Tory second in command and prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Ashton, is turning out to be a surprisingly good Chairman of Social Services. Slightly to the right of Ghenghis Khan in most other matters, he is fighting tooth and nail to undo the damage he and his colleagues have done in the last three years of tight budgeting. At the last council he went so far as to accuse fellow Tories of 'baulking' his dept. and gave out some ho ror show facts about the near collapse of Social Services in Ashton.

Has the demon dentist really got a heart ? Or is he just electioneering? Either way, he shows up better than his Labour shadow councillor Webb who, we hear, couldn't get it together to turn up at a crisis meeting with Ashton's hard pressed social workers.

leaving

A report appeared recently in the Manchester alternative paper 'City Enquirer' to the effect that 'Arry 'Unt, the veteran Mossley councillor was thinking of leaving the Tories to run as an independent Can it be trueHarry, and why?

Ern-ings

Ernie Reed, the tubby Conservative Councillor from Hyde, rang up the EYE the other night to complain that we hadn't published his expenses in the last issue. Ernie wishes it to be known that he hasn't claimed anything for three years. Satisfied, Ern?

Tameside Metropolitan Borough

FOR SALE OR TO LET

CONTACT
CHIEF ESTATES & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
TEL. 330 · 4338/5636 EXT.41

ANY TAKERS ?

table

On the subject of Councillors expenses, a lot of people, some of them councillors, thought it was unfair of us to print a 'league table of expenses' without a table showing how many meetings Councillors attend, or miss, as the case may be. Well, we agree and we were going to print such a table in this issue but ran out of space. But, rest assured, it will be in next month!

bookworm

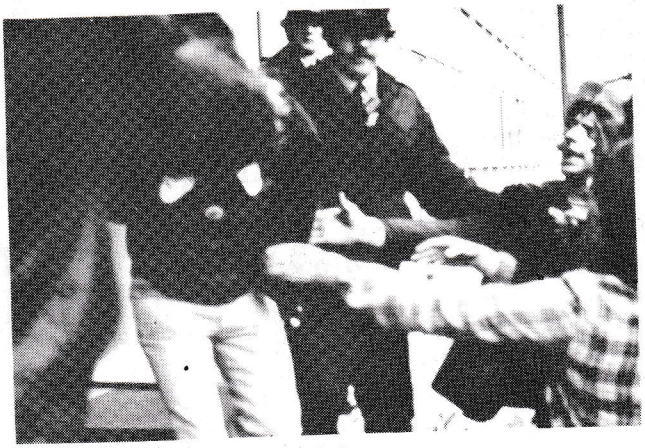
Cllr. Foster (Lab) is an avid reader, or so it seems. He spent half of September's full council meeting reading what appeared to be The Daily Mail and a fair bit of October's with his head in a lurid novel.

THE FORMATION OF A NATIONAL FRONT FOOTBALL TEAM IN TAMESIDE HAS ADDED A NEW DIMENSION TO THE OLD PROBLEM OF SOCCER VIOLENCE. FOUR OUT OF EIGHT GAMES PLAYED SO FAR HAVE SEEN SCENES OF VIOLENCE AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN N.F. MEMBERS AND ANTI-RACISTS DETERMINED THAT NAZIS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED A FOOTHOLD IN THIS COUNTRY.

FLASHPOINT 1

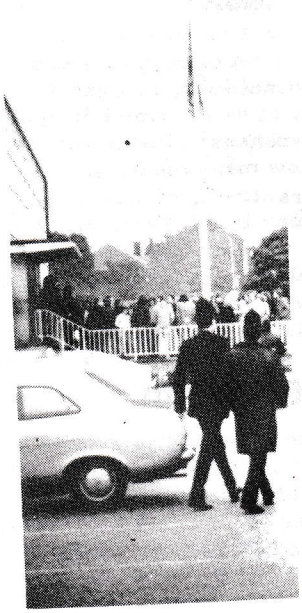
3RD SEPT. THE FIRST GAME AT RICHMOND ST. PLAYING FIELDS ASHTON. 15 ANTI NAZIS WHO HAD TURNED UP TO HAND OUT LEAFLETS WERE CONFRONTED BY 150 N.F. MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER GREATER M/CR. A 19YR. OLD BOY FROM ASHTON WAS ATTACKED BY 4 N.F. SUPPORTERS, PUSHED TO THE GROUND AND KICKED. THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO THE POLICE BY TWO WITNESSES BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

Long arm of the law (above) Arrest (below left) Thick blue line (below right).



FLASHPOINT TWO

10TH SEPT. DEWSNAP LANE DUKINFIELD. ANTI RACISTS FROM CARF (CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM AND FASCISM) AND THE ANTI NAZI LEAGUE INVADED THE PITCH. THE N.F. REFEREE PUNCHED A FEMALE DEMONSTRATOR IN THE FACE AND A SCUFFLE ENSUED. THE POLICE TOOK NO ACTION.



Police arrive (left).

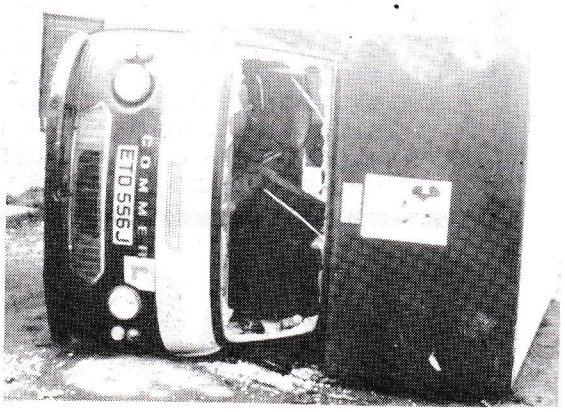
N.F. injury (right)

NF BOOT-BOYS

N.F. supporters (above) don't seem too interested in a 'quiet game of football.'

The gent with the brolly (left) is Steve Smith, N.F. member from Miles Platting. What's he doing with his brolly?

N.F. van (below) smashed by anti-rascists. How did that help the struggle against nazism? The N.F. now have a new van and their opponents some bad publicity.



FLASHPOINT 3 and 4

17th SEPT. BACK BOWER, HYDE. 70 CARF & A.N.L. SUPPORTERS INVADED THE PITCH. JOHN TUMMON AND JOHN PEARSON, THE CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER OF CARF WERE ARRESTED. SHIRLEY HENSHAWE A LABOUR PARTY WORKER FROM HYDE WAS BEATEN UP BY N.F. SUPPORTERS. ACCORDING TO CARF, THE INCIDENT WAS POINTED OUT TO THE POLICE, WHO WERE PRESENT, BUT NO ACTION WAS TAKEN UNTIL CARF MEMBERS INTERVENED. THEN ONLY CARF MEMBERS WERE "WARNED".

8TH OCT. DROYLSDEN MEDLOCK. 170 A.N.L. / CARF MEMBERS PRESENT. THE PITCH WAS CORDONED OFF BY LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE THE N.F. PLAYERS VAN WAS OVERTURNED AND SMASHED. THE REMAINING OFFICER OF TAME SIDE CARF WAS ARRESTED, ACCUSED OF CAUSING CRIMINAL DAMAGE. CARF CLAIMS THAT THE OFFICER JOHN DEVONSHIRE WAS NOWHERE NEAR THE VAN WHEN IT WAS SMASHED, AND THAT THEIR OFFICERS ARE BEING VICTIMISED BY THE POLICE WHILST N.F. VIOLENCE IS BEING IGNORED.

INHUMAN EMPLOYER ?

Dept: HOUSING

Name: BAILEY Mary

Designation: Housing Assistant

Date: 29th July 1976

Sign: M. Bailey

No. 00925

IN JULY 1977MRS. M. BAILEY WHO HAD WORKED FOR THE LOCAL COUNCIL FOR14 YEARS, AND ON ONE OCCASION RISKED HER LIFE IN THE COURSE OF HER WORK, LEFT HER JOB. FOR HER LAST THREE YEARS AT WORK SHE WAS UNDER PRESSURE AND HARRASSMENT FROM TAMESIDE...

Before Tameside was formed in 1974, Mrs. Bailey was a part-time rent collector for eleven yrs in Ashton and Audenshaw. In Oct. '71 a masked thief violently attacked Mrs. Bailey while she was collecting rents. She fought him off so determinedly that in the end he ran away; Audenshaw council publicly commended her for her bravery.

transfer

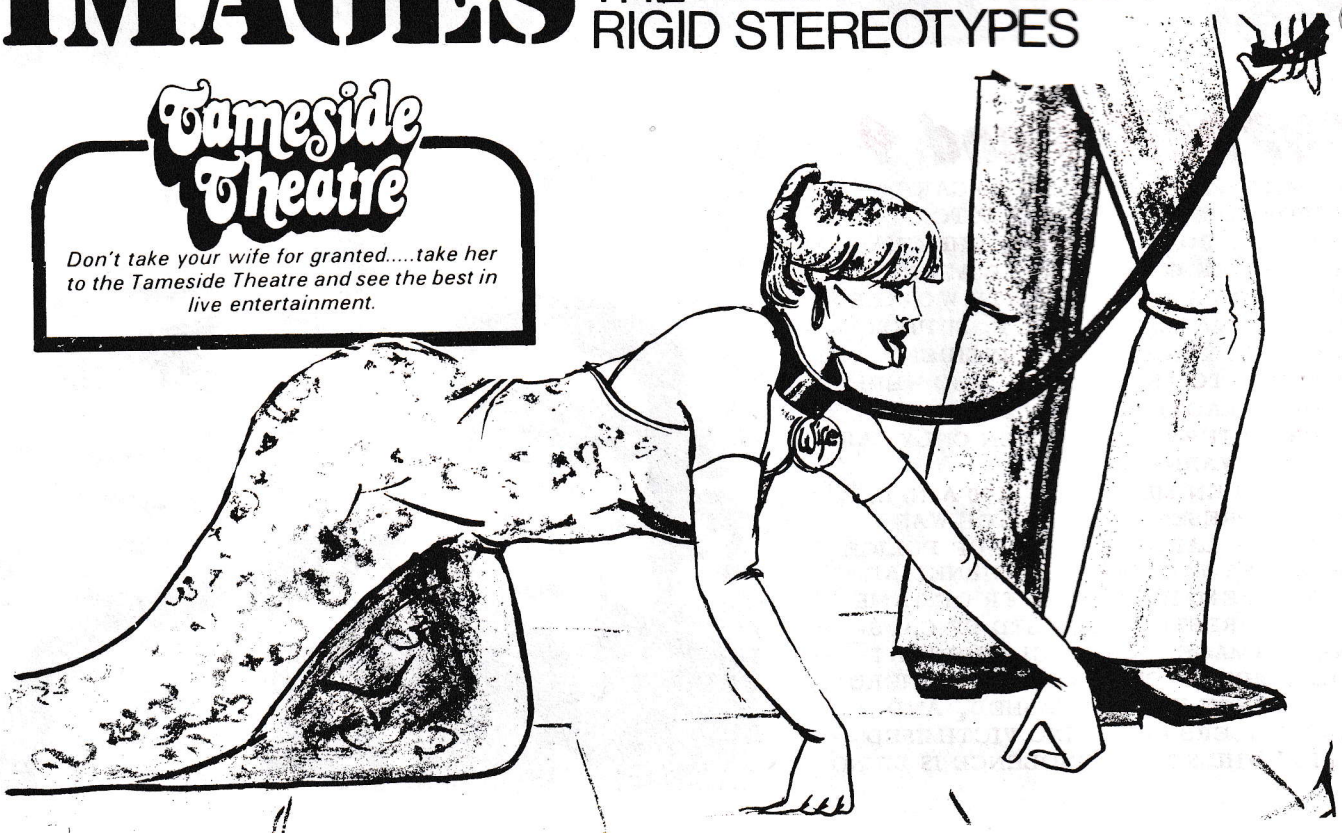
When Tameside cameinto existence Mrs. Bailey was transferred to Stalybridge. She worked under a Miss Nora Cookson, who disliked the idea of part-time rent collectors. She soon changed Mrs. Bailey's days of work, which led on one occasion to Mrs. Bailey having to do two rent collections at the same houses in one week - obviously not popular with her or the tenant. An error which arose from these changes led to Mrs. Bailey, whose honesty had never before been doubted, being interviewed by Miss Cookson and two internal auditors. Obviously, this was upsetting for Mrs. Bailey.

early retirement

In April 1977, Mrs. Bailey and another part time collector Pat Howard, were moved to Ashton.

IMAGES

A REGULAR LOOK AT THE WAY THE MEDIA FORCE US INTO RIGID STEREOTYPES


Tameside Theatre
Don't take your wife for granted.....take her to the Tameside Theatre and see the best in live entertainment.
wife

BATTERED WOMEN A HOUSING PRIORITY?

THE LAW NOW OFFERS SOME PROTECTION TO BATTERED WOMEN. HUSBANDS CAN BE PROSECUTED FOR BEATING THEIR WIVES AND COUNCILS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE BATTERED WOMEN HOUSING PRIORITY. BUT MANY BATTERED WOMEN STILL FIND THEMSELVES IN INTOLERABLE SITUATIONS. THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE GLOSSOP WOMAN'S ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE HER VIOLENT HUSBAND AND OF THE RESISTANCE SHE RAN INTO FROM THE AUTHORITIES. IT IS NOT UNTYPICAL.

Alma Ennis and David lived together and had two children before she left him for the first time because of his fits of violence. As she lived in Glossop she went to the battered wives home in Matlock. The council then gave her and the children a council flat. David soon found her and came round begging forgiveness and offering marriage. She was penniless and lonely She agreed to marry. David bought a house and they moved in. In spite of the marriage certificate and all his promises, however, David had not changed. He still beat her and was violently jealous whenever she left the house. Solicitors told her that she would have to be married three years before she could get a divorce.

divorce

After three years Alma filed for divorce. David wanted to sell their house and move. The council put a stay-order on the sale so that Alma and the kids could stay but David would not leave. He wanted to sell the house, not leave it for Alma. The council would not give Alma other housing because she was not homeless. David's suspended sentence for assault (on Alma) ended and the violence began again. The eldest child started to show signs of nervousness and disturbance. Alma was scared. In May she decided to make herself homeless.

She moved in with a friend, Christine and her two kids.

The two-up-two-down that they shared for ten days had an outside toilet and was about to be torn down as 'unfit for human habitation' but was Alma homeless? No, according to Mr. Rudd of Glossop Housing Dept. She still had a roof over her head and besides, she could have stayed in her own house. Maybe they were overcrowded? No, Mr. Holmes of the Health Dept insisted that they were allowed two adults or four children to each room, including the living room (a total of six adults or twelve children in a two bedroomed house).

caravan

The only way out was for Chris to evict Alma. Alma arrived at Glossop Town Hall complete with children and bags of clothes, ready to be given temporary accomodation. She was told to 'come back next week' (Mr. Rudd also kindly offered her a place in Stockport Women's Aid, out of the housing district. Alma declined) She and the two children returned to Chris.

A few days later, when Alma returned with children and bags to the Town Hall Mr. Rudd had gone on holiday. His replacement, Mr. Parkinson promised her temporary accomodation-a caravan near Buxton Alma moved in that day, she had to clean it out and beg the council for essential repairs, she had to walk miles to get the kids to school, but it was a step out of the mess she was in.

She was warned that she may have to stay in the caravan for as long as three years before she could get a house. But then the council's attitude seemed to change and after four months in the caravan she was moved (at the end of Sept) in to a council house.

battle

Every step away from her violent marriage was a battle for Alma - why? Do the authorities think that battered women should be punished even more? Alma was determined and was made strong and hardy by her experiences, she learnt to fight. She was fortunate in the support given by her friend Chris. Other battered women are less fortunate. They are upset and in physical danger. They actually need sympathetic help from council officials. How often do they get it ?

*

From the start, pressure to leave was put on both of them, so that the two part time jobs could be replaced by one full time job. Mrs. Howard, a younger woman, was advised to seek a job in another Tameside dept. while Mary Bailey was advised to retire early. Once she was even visited by Asst. Housing Manager Smith while she was off sick, and the same suggestion was made.

pressure

The pressure started to tell on Mrs. Bailey's health. She had suffered with her nerves ever since being attacked in 1971 (although she had taken very little time off work over this). Now, on top of these pressures she had been moved against her will to Ashton, her working days had again been changed and she had been allocated a round on the Clayton Bridge side of Droylsden, an estate regarded by rent collectors as a tough one and one that required three bus journeys from her home. She started to suffer so badly with her nerves that she took several days off work. As a result, she was twice summoned to Mr. Smith's office for disciplinary interviews on the grounds that she had taken time off without sick notes. On 26th April her doctor gave her a sick note for two months. When she was due to return to work she could not face it and felt that she had no alternative but to hand in her notice.

sacking withdrawn

In August 1977 Pat Howard, who had assisted attempts to transfer her to other jobs (such as school lab. assistant) actually received a dismissal notice. She immediately joined NALGO, appealed against the sacking, and it was withdrawn.

happy ending ?

On July 4th Tameside billed Mrs. Bailey for £55, which they said was for wages paid when she was off sick. At this point she went to her Union to complain, and eventually NALGO pressure led to this bill being withdrawn.

Now, in good health, Mrs. Bailey wants nothing so much as her old job back again. There seems to be little chance of that-she has even been rejected for a temporary job in the Housing Dept. A callous employer has used her and thrown her aside; we have printed her story in the hope that some councillor (perhaps from Audenshaw) might take up her case and bring it - for once in Tameside- to a happy ending.

COMMUNITY WHATS ON.

stalybridge

Millbrook Youth & Community Centre. (338 3533) Grenville St. off Huddersfield Rd., Stalybridge.
Worker: Glenn Routledge.
Luncheon club starting - any helpers contact Glenn c/o Centre.
Youth Club disco every other Thurs.
Youth Club - Sun 12th Nov. canoeing at Water Adventure Centre.

Copley Youth & Community Centre 338 6230.
Demesse Drive, Copley Estate Stalybridge.
Worker: Bill Jackson.
Activities:
Snr. Youth Club. Mon, Wed, Thur, Sat. 7.30-10.30
Jnr. Youth Club. Tue. 7.00-9.30.
Playgroup. Mon, Wed, Fri. 9 -12.30
Social Services Dept. Melbourne St. Stalybridge (338 4314/3753, 303-9519)
Unemployed lunch club-Thur. 12-3.00 contact c/o Centre.
Blind Club Mon, 1-4.30. Social Serv's Stalybridge.
Handicapped Club. Mon, Thur. 1-4.30 Social Services Stalybridge.
Mums & Tots. Tue 9.30-12.30 Mrs. J. Knowles (427 2607)
1-parent family group. Tue 9.30-12.30 Mrs. M. Cook, 22 Ambleside Stalybr. 338 3599.
Evergreen Club (OAP's) Wed. 1 -4.30 Mrs. W. Buckley. 30 Copley Ave, Copley Estate, Stalybridge (303 9462)

hyde

Hyde Youth & Community Centre. (368 6372) Lwr. Bennet St. Hyde.
Worker: Gerald Cooper
Activities:
Snr. Youth Club. Mon, Thur. Fri. 7.00-10.00
Jnr. Youth Club Thur 7 - 9.00
Sat. 10.00-12.00
Playgroup Mon, Wed. 9.30-11.30 contact c/o Centre.
Young Wives (Probation Service) Tue. 10.00-12.00
Badminton Weds. 7.00-10.00 contact c/o centre.
Snr. Citizens - every other Wed. Mrs. Brierley, 251 Dukinfield Rd. Hyde (368 6386)
Lunch Club Thurs. 12 - 1-00. Bill Lowe c/o Centre.
Toy Library Sat 2 -4.00 cont. Centre.
Adult Literacy. Mon. Wed. 7 - 9.00 Barbara Burgess Warrington House, Church St. AUL (330 8888)
Hike for Jnr. Club Sat. 11th Nov. Monyash to Lathkill Dale. 10a.m. from Hyde Youth Centre, coach 30p.
Special plug for Mums & Tots Tues and Thurs p.m. 1.15-3.30. badminton, T. T., sewing, toys for kids, and snacks.
Lunch every Thurs from 12.00 everyone welcome.
OAP's Mon p.m. 2 - 4 darts, pool, whist, T. T. crafts, bingo.
Hyde Library, Union St. Hyde. Art Exhibition 16th Oct. -10th Nov.
Art work by jnr. and snr. members of Hyde youth and community centre. This event was made possible by the co-operation of: Mr. G. Maddock (Hyde Library) Gerald Cooper (Hyde Y. C.) Beryl Lowe (H. Y. C.) Albert Lowe (H. Y. C.) Liz Wilde (H. Y. C.)

longdendale

Longdendale Youth Club (646 4099)
Cannon Hall (by Gunn Inn) Hollingworth.
Worker: Neil Shimkins
Activities: Wide range of youth club activities. Times of opening: Mon, Wed, Thur. 7.00-9.45.

ashton

West End Community Centre (339 2728
Worker: Guy Heppner.
Activities:
Mums & Tots Tue, Wed. 9.30-11.30
Kath Nuttall, Ryecroft Cottage William St. AUL
Sunshine Club(OAPS) Tues. 2-4.00 contact Jessie c/o Centre.
Youth Club Mon, Wed. 7 - 10.00
Arts & Crafts Tue. 7.30-9.30 Winnie Whiteside, 33 Trafalgar St.
M.I.N.D. Thur. 7.30-9.30 c/o centre.
Whist Club. Thur, Sat. 7.30-9.30.
Karate Club. Sun 10.-12.00 J. Dransfield c/o Centre.
Indian Youth Group Sat. 2.00 contact c/o centre.
Broadoak Youth Centre (339 2302) Broadoak Rd. AUL.
Worker: Graham Evans
Activities:
Snr. Youth Club. Mon, Wed, Fri. 7-10.0
Jnr. Youth Club. Tue, Thur. 6.30-8.30.
Mums & Tots. Tue. 2-4.00. Mrs. Barker. 124 Broadoak Rd. AUL.
Thur. 2 -4.00 Mrs. Cox, 5 Timperly Fold AUL.
Playgroup. Mon-Fri. 9-12 contact c/o centre.
Handicapped Club - Wed. Thur. 2.00 Social Services, Mercian House AUL.
Childminders. Fri a.m. Mrs. Jeffs, 62 Princess St. AUL.
Junior club Christmas show 19th Dec and party.

mossley

Mossley Youth & Community Centre (698 2292) Milton St. Mossley
Activities:
Youth Club. Tue, Wed, Thur 7.30-10.
Playgroup. Mon, Wed, Fri. 9.15-11.15
Christine Riley (Mossley 4530)
St. John's Ambulance Fri. 6.45-9.00
Mrs. S. Zidan c/o Centre.

hattersley

Hattersley Youth Club (368 8513) Hattersley Rd. East. Hattersley.
Worker: Nick Cooper
Activities: wide range of youth club pursuits.
Times of opening Snrs. Mon, Tue, Wd. 7.00;10.00
Juniors - Thurs.

Dance/Disco in aid of Community Routes. Longdendale Recreation Centre, 3rd Nov 8pm, 75p(includes supper). Band "Any Trouble", Bar.

Bonfire; Longdendale Recreation Centre, Nov 4th 7pm. Fireworks. Guy Competition. Stalls. Tombola

droylsden

Fairfield Centre (370 1383) Grove St. Droylsden
Worker: Ernie Mellor.
Activities:
Mums & Tots. Mon. 1.30-4.00. Julie Dickson c/o Centre.
Snr. Youth Club. Mon, Wed, Thur. 8.00-10.00
Jnr. Youth Club Mon & Wed. 5.45-6.40.

denton

Denton Youth & Community Centre (336 4881) Prestwich St. Denton.
Worker: John Burns.
Jnr. Youth Club. Tue. 6.30-8.30.
Mums & Tots, Mon. 10-12. Thur. 1-3.0

send your community 'info' to tameside eye

The General Store
11 Norfolk St., Glossop
Third World & Local Crafts
Cards, Pictures, etc
Open Wed to Sat, 10-6

WHATS ON

RECORD REVIEW

'L'

KEVIN GODLEY AND LOL CREME (MERCURY)

This is the second album now from the two musicians who quit 10cc to spend more time in the studio and also push their own musical invention - the Gizmo. Their first album 'consecuences' was their showcase for this instrument which attaches to a guitar and makes it sound like an orchestra, but as it was a triple L.P. selling at over £9. it obviously wasn't a great commercial success. So, here we have Lol and Kevin trying to 'make it' again with a very inspired second. They are, of course masters of studio technique. Lol admitting in a recent interview that he could only play keyboards with one finger and the rest was purely good engineering in the studio. Is it art though? I ask myself. However, he can play some good guitar and here he supplements this more than adequately by some fine bass playing. Kevin Godley laying down the percussion work including some very nice vibes.

Musically I find this record reminiscient of the Mothers of Invention - rhythms rapidly changing, melodies appearing and then suddenly disappearing, plus multitracked distorted speeded up voices. There is an instrumental track entitled 'Foreign Accents' which particularly reminds me of a couple of tracks off the Hot Rats album by Frank Zappa and ironically one line of another song reads "Does getting into Zappa mean getting out of Zen"

There is a lyric sheet provided with the LP Not usually a good idea as most rock lyrics are better left unseen, but here it works, mainly because the lyrics aren't too bad. Lol Cremes presumably autobiographical song 'Punchbag' about the horrors of being picked on at school, especially if you were Jewish is particularly well written and very personal. I also liked the words to their love song "(I could eat) Sandwiches of You." What a nice idea!

It goes without saying that the production on this record is excellent, although perhaps it is a shade too overproduced in parts. The musicians on the album are mainly Lol and Kevin but there is some sax playing by Jonathan Handelman and Andy Mackay, the former Roxy Music man and music adviser/writer to Rock Follies. Definitely Recommended.

'JAZZ'

RY COODER

The idea behind this album is that there has always been a lot going on in the periphery of popular jazz trends: "We wanted to provide a threat of alternative jazz in America!"

This quote from the sleeve notes sums the record up far better than I could and here is Ry Cooder playing some lovely jazz guitar in his own inimitable style accompanied by some really good jazz musicians. My favourite tracks are the two where Ry appears unaccompanied and these are "The Pearls/Tia Juana" an old Jelly Roll Morton track, and Flashes by Bix Beiderbede. The sound is superbly evocative of America during the early part of this century and is definitely a must for jazz freaks.

Mick Lomas

MUSIC LISTINGS

PUB ROCK

*Mon, Tue, Wed. Birch Hotel Birch St, AUL.
Wed, Fri, Sat. Spreadeagle, Stamford St. AUL. Roger Read Sound.
Thur, Fri. Commercial Hotel, Melbourne St. Stbrg.
Fri, Sat, Sun lunch/evg. Globe Hotel Old St. AUL

JAZZ

*Palatine Inn, Hadfield, Thurs. Spreadeagle, Stamford St. AUL. 'Fourplay'

FOLK

*Sun. Rose and Crown, Stalbrg. Free. well est. club.

*Mon. White Gates, Hyde. CAMRA pub. usually exc. music.

*Tues. The Clarence, AUL New club. Bass Charrington pub - worth a visit.

*Weds. Cross Keys. Uppermill. Warm atmosphere.

*Thurs. Commercial, Glossop. Traditional club. run by Terry Walsh.

*Fri. Rose and Crown, Stlbrg Good club, gets crowded so go early.

*Sat. Stbrg. Railway Station Buffet. Cramped but cosy, a few seats.

EATING OUT

CORNICHE GRILL

CORNICHE GRILL, Oldham Road, Ashton.
£3.58 sounds a lot, but then it does include VAT. Oh, and a 12oz rumpsteak, garden peas, tomato, onions, jacket potatoes and a roll and butter as well.

For the less extravagant, there is plenty of choice, going down to fillet of plaice with trimmings at £1.71. If you must have wine with your meal you'll pay £9.32 for a bottle of Moet et Chandon champagne or 45p. for a glass of Spanish plonk (or just about anywhere in between).

Enough about money - who cares about that anyway? What about the ambiance, the atmosphere, the decor; what's the joint like? Once the sensation of eating in a multi-storey car park has faded (the restaurant is inside and overlooking the car showroom at Monk's garage), it's really quite pleasant, with nothing to spoil your appetite.

The service is quick and polite, there's a bar in the restaurant and the food is cooked in view of the consumer, so you can see that it's up to standard. I'll give it three on the Tameside Eye scale of five.

FREE LISTINGS PHONE GLOSSOP 61702

FILM REVIEW

'Assault on Precinct 13'

'Assault on Precinct 13' (X) is in Manchester at the moment and should be doing the rounds soon. Written and directed by John Carpenter, maker of 'Dark Star' it concerns a police station in an unpopulated area of Los Angeles, officially closed for business, that finds itself under siege by a veritable army of urban guerillas, while we bite our nails wondering if the cavalry (heavily disguised as the L.A. Police Dept) will turn up in time (or at all, as the telephone wires are cut!).

Actually, it's vengeance the gang is after, following a police ambush on six of their comrades. The guerilla band seem bound together by neither race nor politics, but share a common interest in killing innocent victims, the first two being an ice cream salesman (himself concealing a gun in his van-not a nice neighbourhood) and a little girl.

Both killings are senseless and without pity, which is the disturbing element in the film, most of the other violence being of the 'cowboys and indians'variety.

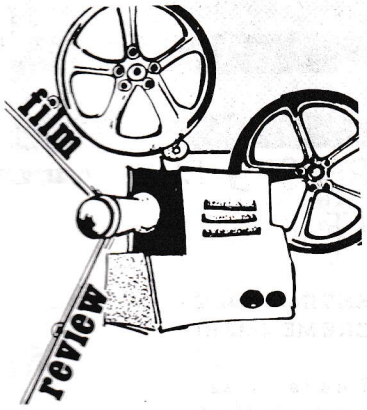
The girl's father manages to shoot his daughter's murderer, thence pursued by the rest he takes refuge in the station.

Surprisingly, the updating of a standard plot is effective, the atmosphere of menace and suspense is strong, helped by weird electronic music in the background. (heartbeats and all that).

One scene is visually inventive when the station's office is subjected to a long hail of silenced rifle fire. The effect resembles a poltergeist running riot in the room.

Holding the lonely front against an eerily anonymous tribe are two police (one male, one female) and two convicted murderers, on the same side in their struggle to survive.

Altogether, well made, uncomplicated with a typical Carpenter script, injecting humour into the most serious situations.



LISTINGS

LOCAL

*Odeon, Old St. Ashton
330 1993
starting 5th Nov.
THE WILD GEESE

*New Palace, Market St.
Stalybridge. 338 2156
starting Oct. 28th
GREASE (forever ?)

CENSORED - WHATS OFF

Here's the official synopsis of 'Emmanuelle and the last Cannibals' a cinematic masterpiece which has recently been banned by the Tameside censor.

"Emmanuelle ... begins on the journalistic beat in New York... but she soon shakes the Manhatton dust from her heels, and after a hectic vertical love session with a tag-along lover called Pete she's wading through the Amazon jungle in search of gruesome cannibals. The heady rush of atrocities, sudden terrors and sudden rescues is peppered with a wide variety of love scenes of fondling and fondness: all in all, its a highly stronger brew than usual."

Tempts you to thank God for censors, doesn't it?

Other films banned in the last year include: 'Pussy Talk", 'Je t'aime Mais Non Plus', 'The Sentinel', 'Slapshot', 'Danish Blue', 'Fantasm', 'The Redeemer' 'Memories within Miss Aggie', 'The Other Cinderella', 'The Sexual adventures of Pinnochio' (!) and 'Intimate Relations'.

Most films are censored because they are rude, but one dissenting censor informed TAMESIDE EYE that, in his opinion, 'Intimate Relations' was disapproved of as much for its 'leftish sentiments' as for its displays of squirming flesh.

Films in Tameside are censored by The Environmental Health and Control Committee. More often than not the committee members don't even see the film, but make a decision based on the synopsis supplied by the Film Trade Journal.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE SYNOPSES OF THE RUDE FILMS THEY WON'T LET YOU SEE !!

BEER

Recently, local licencees opposed applications to reopen two Ashton pubs: the Ryecroft in the west end and the Station in the town centre. They claim that enough public houses exist already in those areas; and they could be right.

But one thing is certain, the choice those pubs offer is only a little greater than the entertainment available in Mossley on a wet Sunday afternoon!

In the area between Guide Bridge and Chester Sq. for instance, there are nine public houses. Nothing wrong with that, but for one small fact: they are all, with one exception, Bass Charrington houses. And that exception, the Crowthorn, is part of the Courage empire, one of whose main claims to fame is its decision to replace John Smith's real ale with keg. So, if you're an ardent keg fan, particularly of the Bass Charrington variety the west end of Ashton is the place for you.

The situation in the town centre is not much better. Three of the six brewing giants, Allied, Bass Charrington and Courage, dominate the scene. And, of the twenty pubs in the centre, only about one quarter sell real ale.

So, the news that the Station is to re-open, with a policy of selling traditional beer and Lancashire food can only be welcome.

Welcome also is the news that Boddingtons have regained a foothold in the town. They recently purchased the Highland Laddie on Old St. and with the proceeds the former landlord of that pub plans to reopen the Seven Stars in Hillgate (hopefully before Christmas). And, yet more good news, that pub also will be an outlet for a variety of traditional beers.

All in all, then, there is a good cause for optimism and the time may not be far off when Ashton can challenge certain other parts of Tameside, notably Hyde & Stalybridge, for the choice of beer prize.

Snake Hips
061-336 0926
MOBILE DISCO
368 2825
50/50 ALL PARTY OCCASIONS

VISUAL ARTS

MANCHESTER

*Colin Jellicoe gallery 82 Portland St. Oct. 9-28. JOHN PICKING - new drawings and watercolours completed in Sicily. Free.

*Portico Library Gallery 9.30-5pm Mon - Fri 'til 3rd Nov. Painting, drawing and prints by JAMES BOSWELL 1906-1971

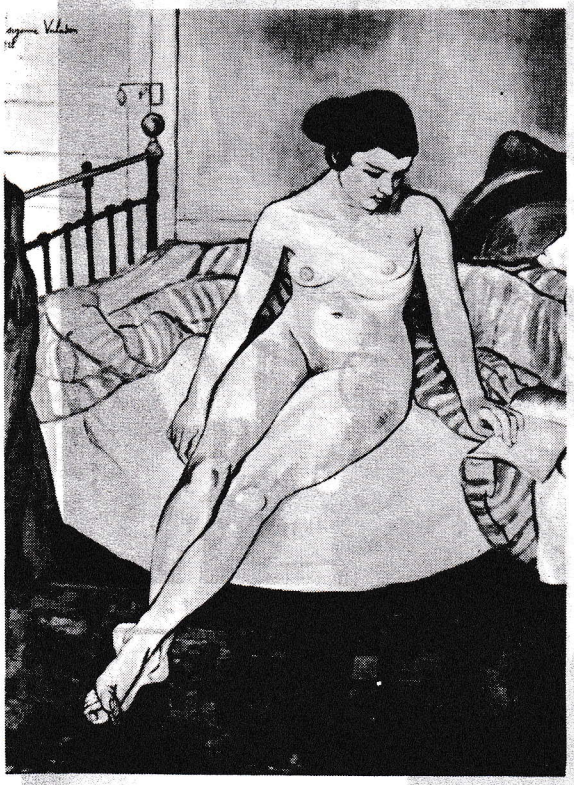
*Grass Roots Gallery, Newton St. 'til 4th Nov. 'Paintings that tell a human story' by PERCY LAWSON

*Peterloo Gallery, Clarence St. Albert Sq. 10.30-5.30 Mon-F--. 10-12.30 Sat. 14 No 31 Dec. RAW MATERIALS. An Exhibition of contemporary craft including ceramics, jewellery, textiles, furniture and prints - Free

*Royal Northern College of Music, Booth St. 1am-10pm daily 'til 25th Nov. ALBERT ST. WORKSHOP EXHIBITION of paintings, drawings, photos & ceramics free.

*N. W. Museum of Science & Industry 10am-5pm Mon-Sat 'til 14th Nov. 'Drawn from Experience' drawings by FRANK WIGHTMAN. Free. Plus perm nt display of machines and their history.

*Whitworth Art Gallery 10am.-5pm. Mon-Sat. 10am-9pm Thurs 'til 18th Nov. Outdoor sculpture at the Whitworth - work from two North West sculptors, MICHAEL LYONS and MICHAEL MASON. Both lecturers at M/chester Poly. free.
And until Nov. 11th - PAINTINGS FROM PARIS An impressive exhibition of early 20th C. paintings and sculpture from the Musee D'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Includes work by PICASSO, MATISSE, BRAQUE, CHAGALL and LEGER, and traces a great deal of the development of modern art in France.



"NU À LA COUVERTURE RAYÉE."
Suzanne Valadon. 1922. at Whitworth Art Gallery

*Abraham Moss Centre Library, Crescent Rd. Crumpsall. until 29th Nov. EVE KAY paintings and drawings.

8th Nov - 1st Dec. Paintings by RHODA ROBINSON CARR.

*Precinct Centre Library, Oxford Rd. Until 24th Nov. 'THE SCIENTIFIC YEAR' An exhibition on the work of M/cr. photographers 1840-80.

*Rochdale Art Gallery 10am-6pm Mon-Fri. 2.30pm-5pm Sun. Nov 4th - Dec 3rd THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF FREDERICK JACKSON. Free.

*Salford Art Gallery, Peel Park. Until 19th Nov. Paintings by MAUREEN BOOTH. Oct. 27 - Dec 3rd. Drawings by LIZ TAYLOR Free.

*Oldham Art Gallery 10am - 7pm Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri. 10am-1pm Tue, Sat. Nov 4th - Dec 12th 'An Artists Harvest' paintings by H.H. LA THANGUE Sat. 11th -23rd Dec. Xmas Craft Exhibition and Sale Free.

*Glossop Centre 'til Nov. 3d. Painting, drawings, Prints - a retrospective exhibition of the work of MAX HAGUE From Nov. 20th, an exhibition by MR. NEILD.

BOOK REVIEW

'The Magus'

By John Fowles

First published in 1966, and now substantially revised and re-issued, 'The Magus' is John Fowles second novel, and probably his best.

The story is daft enough: Nicholas Urfe, a self-centred and thoroughly dislikeable 25 year old Oxbridge educated drifter, takes a job at a prep school on an exotic Greek island in order to escape from a desperate love affair with Alison, an Australian air hostess, and the awful meaningless of his life in England. Soon after arriving, he stumbles on an isolated mansion owned by Conchis (the Magus of the title), an enigmatic Greek millionaire who spends the next 500 or so pages of the book telling Urfe his life story.

Pretty inauspicious stuff, except that Conchis isn't content with simply telling his story, but seems determined that Urfe should re-enact it, and lures him into a series of wierd masque-like performances.

The sounds, smells and scenes of Conchis's past cometo life in his grounds and gardens, acted out by a motley assortment of horny Greek gods and godesses, Nazi stormtroopers, a predictably immense negro (appearing in a variety of configurations) and two fascinating 'sisters' who - Circe-like-become Urfe's main reason for returning again and again to Conchis's increasingly painful and realistic theatricals.

It is silly, but completely involving.

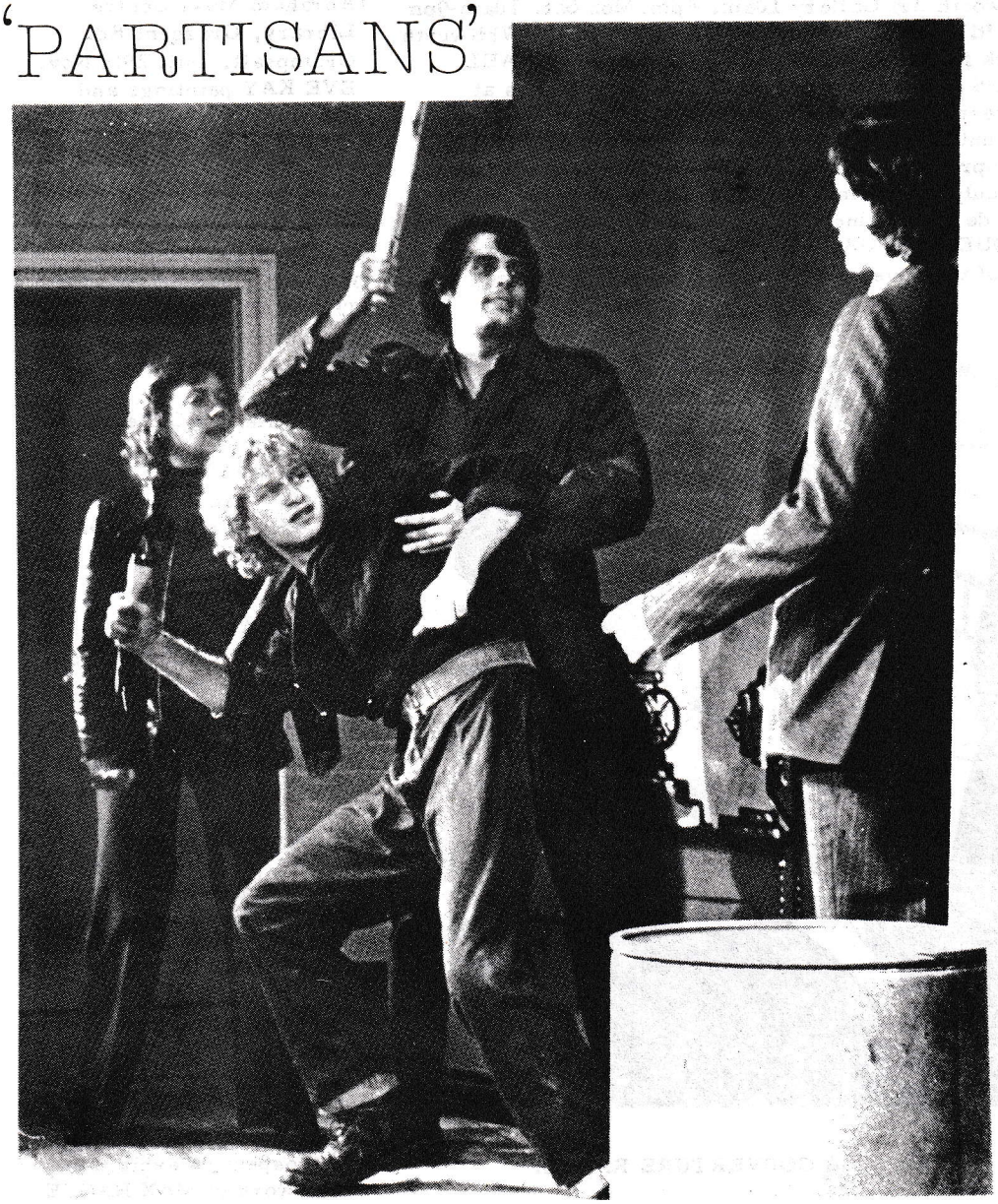
And, if you manage to stagger past the first 100 pages (there are 656 in all) you will be driven, like Urfe back to Fowle's wierd 'Gou Games' again and again, not because of the would-be profundity of its themes (the nature of truth, illusion and reality, relationships) but because of the nail-hanging suspense, the mystery, the elaborate twists and turns of the plot and the generous helpings of highly readable sex. Fowle's trick is to make you as madly curious as Urfe is to find out what the hell is going on.

Mike Harris.

'The Magus' is published in Panther paperback at £1.50. Other books by John Fowles available in paperback are 'The Collector', 'The French Lieutenants Woman' and 'The Ebony Tower'.

THEATRE

'PARTISANS'



NORTH WEST SPANNER IN "PARTISANS"- SEE BELOW.

REVIEW

North West Spanner.
First performance Fri. 13th Oct. West End Community Centre.

I suppose the thing I like most about community theatre, or fringe political drama or whatever it's called, is that you can drink beer whilst watching the performance. Also, you don't feel like a criminal when the consequences of this pleasant activity assail you.i.e. force you to make a conspicuous exit to the persons' toilets, and creature comforts aside, it proves that you don't need expensive hallowed surroundings to house a good play and get a lot from it.
North West Spanner's latest offering, with its wit, pace and humour, and the fact that it makes you think at the same time, puts many larger scale efforts by traditional theatres in the shade.
The subject seemed unpromising : a small subsidiary of Chrysler U.K. and the human effect of the Peugeot takeover. But, the larger political issues were perfectly comprehensible when realised within this small group of employees. Their names: Hammer (the Union rep) Birdman (of Alcatraz: he'd actually been wrongly imprisoned for a few months for drug possession), Mole (all his spare time is devoted to his tunnel to escape the factory), and Ferry (the talkative one). That is, Ferry-Ferry cross the Mersey- Mersey tunnel - mouth as wide as - O.K. ?

These figures are not merely stereotyped nutters or spouters; their very nicknames evidence the virtue of this play i.e. native invention and wit; ultimately a stronger and more optimistic resource with which to combat industrial oppression than any idealogical movement; simply because movements, whatever their politics, are always exclusive, and narrative wit isn't.
The play uses a series of quick sketches and some surreal monologues to keep up a pace that never flags. If the play directs us to oppose anything, it is to oppose cynicism, whether that cynicism be personal like Ferry's initial wearied sarcasm, or corporate, where multinational companies dice with people's loyalties and lives.

I recommend this, especially to anyone who remembers the Humber Super Snipe with fondness.
Cast: Ernie Dalton-Ferry
Penny Morris-Hammer
Newman Smith - Birdman
Chris Tupman - Mole

TOUR DATES FOR PARTISANS

6th - 11th Nov. Merseyside Arts Tour.
14th Nov. 8pm. Northend Labour Club, Stockport.
16th Nov. 8pm. Greenbank Labour Club, Eccles.
17th Nov. 1.15p.r Hulme College of F.E.
18th Nov. 7.30p.m. Abraham Moss Centre, Crumpsall.

All Enqs. to Maureen Ramsay at 061 881 7845 or write Drill Hall, MC Rd. Mossley AUL.
Other shows available for booking:

"SAFETY FIRST OR LAST" black comic look at serious problem of safety at work.

"OUT OF CONTROL" raises question of nuclear power in the context of industrial safety.

LISTINGS local

*Sunday 19th Nov. Greyhound Hotel, Burlington St. A.U.L. 8p.m. Tameside Anti-Nazi League present CAST theatre group in 'What happens next?' their dynamic anti-nazi show.

*Tue 21.Nov. -.Sat.25th THE INSECT PLAY by the Brothers Capek. 7.30 p.m. Glossop School. Tel. 3680. Tickets on sale now from school, 60p and 40p.

*Tues 28.Nov. -2.Dec. Partington Players present A CHRISTMAS PLAY FOR CHILDREN. Playhouse, Henry St. Glossop 7.30pm Tickets bookable in prev. week from playhouse.

*Fri.24th Presto Puppets. ALADDIN and PUPPET CABARET. Aft. and Evg. venue to be arranged. Tickets from the Chronicle Office, Glossop.

*Tameside Theatre (ring to confirm times 330 2095)
Mon.Oct.30. for 6 days SHOWBOAT by Dukinfield Amateur Operatic Soc.7.15.
Sun Nov.5. FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE
Tue Nov.6. PINK FLOYD FILM
Wed.Nov.8. ELVIS FILM
Fri.Nov.10. GENE PITNEY in concert 7.45p.m.
Sat.Nov.11 STALYBRIDGE BAND
'Stbrg's oldest brass band' (1809) Played at Peterloo massacre. Gold medal winners in July in Karkrade, Holland. Enqs. contact Eric Parkin, 30 Church Walk, Stalbrg. 338 2107
Sun.Nov.12. HORROR FILM
Mon.Nov.13.-18. THE SOOTY SHOW 5.p.m.
Sun.Nov.19. STEWART GILLIES
Mon.Nov.20-25. Film GREASE (again!)
Sun.Nov.26. COTTON WEAVERS
Tue.Nov.28. TAVARES in concert.

city

*Library Theatre
236 7110 .seats. £1.20. 85p.50p. sats. £1.55, £1.20 85p. till Nov. 4th. ALPHABETICAL ORDER by Michael Frayn - about a prim, efficient librarian appointed to a disorderly provincial newspapers library. Won Evening Standard award in '75 for best comedy.
*8.Nov.-2 Dec. VOLPONE by Ben Johnson. A moral satire showing Volpone (the fox) aided by Mosca (the fly) scheming to make more money, until their avarice and deception rebounds on them.

*Forum Theatre, Wythenshawe. 437 9663. Seats £1.20, 85p.50p. Sats. £1.55 £1.20, 85p. till 4th Nov. JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare. directed by David Scase. For 'O'levellers.
*Nov.10-Dec 2. DRACULA IS UNDEAD AND WELL AND LIVING IN PURFLEET. by Charles McKeown. A. musical set in a swinging sanatorium.

*Royal Exchange. 833 9833 seats. £3.60, £2.90, £2.50. £1.80 and 90p. till 4th Nov. THE LADY FROM THE SEA by Ibsen. If you want to see Vanessa then Banquette seats (90p) get you closest! though you have to C. before 10am. on day of performance

*9th Nov.-16.Dec.
THE WINTERS TALE by Wm Shakespeare, directed by Graham Murray. First night 7pm. thereafter 7.30. Wed. mat. 2.30. Sat 3p.m. Shakespeares study of jealousy and fate. Worth seeing for how they're going to do my favourite stage direction "Exit pursued by a bear" This production opens having returned from a European tour.

*Contact. Devas St. 273-5696 seats £1.50, £1. reductions for students.
25th Oct.-11th Nov.
THE CHANGELING by Middleton and Towley, directed by Richard Williams. First performed in 1622, this play is enjoying a welcome revival, opening recently in London and performed by the R.S.C. Has all the stock ingredients for a powerful play: insanity, lust, murder plots etc.

*14 Nov.-18 Nov. THE MASTER BUILDER by Ibsen University Stage Soc.

*20 Nov. (that week) MACBETH by Wm. Shakespeare. University Drama Group.

*29 Nov.-16 Dec. SCENES FROM SOWETO by Steve Wilmer. Concerns a biographical account of a Sth. African student, returning to his native land from university in England (Oxford and Salford!) and finds himself reluctantly but inevitably involved in the Soweto revolts.

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GREYHOUND, BURLINGTON ST. AUL
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nov. 10

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5p. per word ring Glossop 61702

CO ORDINATOR required for new Glossop S.T.E.P. Scheme, funded for 12months by Manpower Services Commission; doing decorating for old and disabled. 12 people on scheme; closing date for applications Nov. 3rd, so ring David Wilcox on 061 224 2804 (work) Glossop 3415 (home) for details.

A new wholefoods collective will require workers. Also any interested in co-operatives. Please contact 9 Higher Newtons, Mossley, AUL or Tel.Glossop 5531.

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MEETINGS

*The People's Festival '78 Sunday 26th Nov. 11am-11pm Windermere Suites, Bellevue M/cr. Theatre, Film, Music, Debate, Exhibitions, Kids events. Advance bookings to 28 Hathersage Rd. Mc.13 OFE

Meeting/Conference
*A one day conference at Longsight library, Stockport Rd. MC 12. Sat Nov.18. 1am-4.30pm. Arranged by M/c Law Centre, NW.Ass. of Housing Aid, NW Womens Aid Fed. on Marriage breakdown, Housing and the Law. Details Wendy 225 5111.

*Energy 2000 NW Conf. 'Nuclear Power and the Trade Unions' Abraham Moss Cen. 18-19 Nov. £2.50 per delegate by Nov.6th to: The Treasurer, Energy 2000 N.W., 82 Gt.Bridgewater St. M/cr M1 5JY.

Oct.31.8p.m.
OPEN MEETING Dowson Primary School, Hyde. "What is a comprehensive school?" Speaker H.Peters J.P. BSc.Head, Reddish Vale School, Stockport.

*Monday 6th Nov. 8p.m. WOMEN IN TAMESIDE GROUP. meet fortnightly to discuss women's affairs. All women welcome. 1 Hawthorn Grove AUL. Off M/cr.Rd. Opp.Quicks garage.

*Tuesdays (every other week.) Glossop Women's Voice. Contact Carol 67 64287.

*Tue.21.Nov. ROMAN MANCHESTER. Historical Soc. Lecture by M.Fitchett Glossop School.

*WOMEN'S GROUP in Hyde/Mottram. meets fortnightly. Contact Penny 368 6341 or Joan, Mottram 63048.

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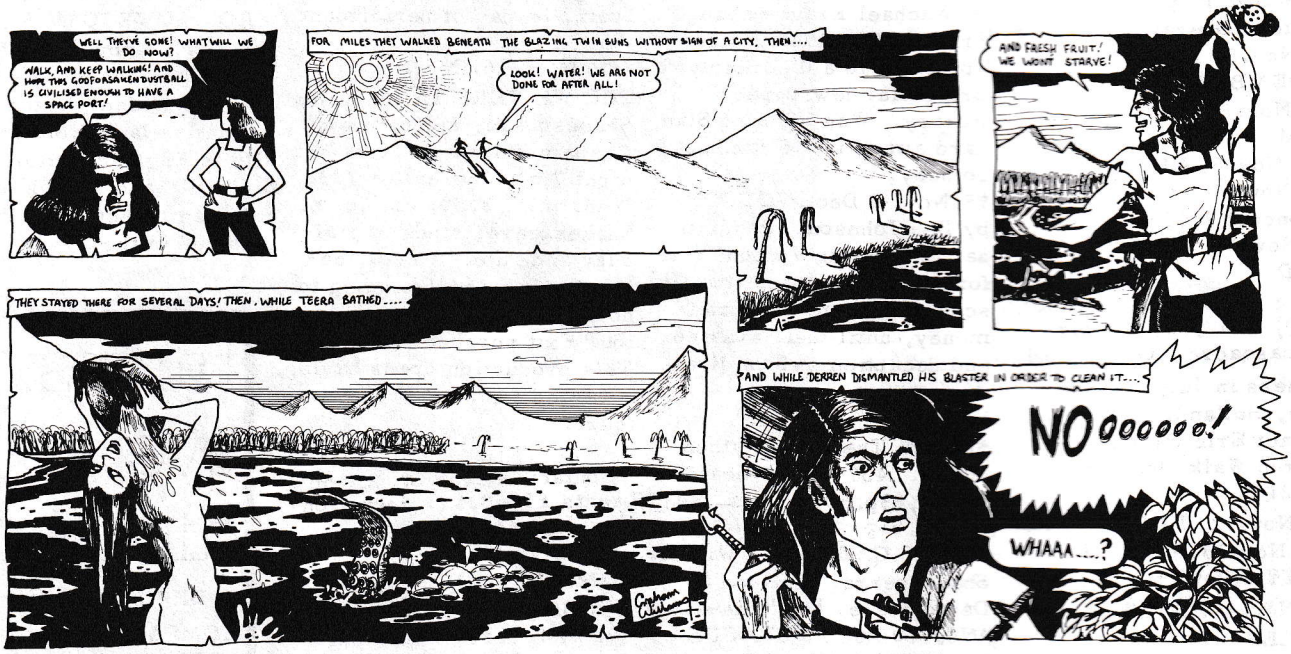
STARLAW

EPISODE TWO OF OUR SCIENCE FICTION STRIP ....
DERRIN LORRIS AND HIS NAVIGATOR JEERA CRASH ON A SMALL PLANET AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY THE EVIL LACKEYS OF EVIL COSMOLORD JAGGRO, MAD RULER OF THE UNIVERSE . UNKNOWN TO THEIR ADVERSARIES THEY SURVIVE THE IMPACT AND BEGIN TO EXPLORE.... NOW READ ON.....


WELL THEY'VE GONE! WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?
WALK, AND KEEP WALKING! AND HOPE THIS GODFORSAKEN DUSTBALL IS CIVILISED ENOUGH TO HAVE A SPACE PORT!
FOR MILES THEY WALKED BENEATH THE BLAZING TWIN SUNS WITHOUT SIGN OF A CITY. THEN....
LOOK! WATER! WE ARE NOT DONE FOR AFTER ALL!
AND FRESH FRUIT! WE WONT STARVE!
THEY STAYED THERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS! THEN, WHILE TEERA BATHED....
AND WHILE DERREN DISMANTLED HIS BLASTER IN ORDER TO CLEAN IT....
NOoooooo!
WHAAA....?

KREEEEEEEE!
Y..YOU KEEP AWAY FROM ME, YOU HEAR? YOU J..JUST KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
FOR GOD'S SAKE DERREN! KILL IT!
OH MY GOD, I..I CAN'T! MY BLASTERS IN PIECES!
SUDDENLY!
ZZZZIP!
EEEEEEEEE!
WHAT THE BLAZES?!!
TAKE THE HUMAN FILTH! THEY WILL MAKE GOOD SPORT IN THE ARENA!